

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

January 13, 2016

Members	A	B	C	G	G	G	M	R	S	Z	Agenda Item	Action Authorized
	X	X	X			X		X	X	X	<p>I. Call to Order - Roll Call of Members</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m.</p> <p>II. Pledge of Allegiance</p> <p>III. Roll Call of Members PRESENT at this Special Meeting of the New Britain Board of Education held at New Britain Educational Center.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that Ms. Aponte, Mr. Mercier and Mrs. Geraci could not attend the Board Meeting due to work obligations.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Dr. Carabillo, Mr. Kane, Mr. Moore, Mr. Salina, Mr. Prokop, Ms. Perez, Mrs. Saavedra, Mr. Fernandes, Ms. Sarra, Mrs. Grant</p> <p>IV. Meditation</p> <p>V. Public Participation Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that the sole purpose of the meeting is to conduct the public hearing on Cabinet level proposed budget. She added that she received several complaints in regards to the Board having the meeting on a Wednesday when the Council meeting was taking place as well. There are some Council members that would have been present if the schedule was not conflicting. As the leader of the Board, Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra has to schedule the meetings based on the availability of the Board Members, she has to make sure that there is always a quorum so that the Board can conduct the important business. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra thanked the Council members that were able to attend the Board Meeting: Daniel Davis, Kristian Rosado, Christopher</p>	
		X	X	X		X		X	X	X		

Ms. Aponte	Mrs. Greco
Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra	Mr. Mercier
Ms. Connolly	Mrs. Rodriguez
Mr. Gay	Ms. Sanchez
Mrs. Geraci	Ms. Zottola

Polkowski.

- Chris Polkowski

Mr. Polkowski, City Alderman, said that he took a look at proposed budget and there are a lot of things that the city officials like and don't like. One of the things that were liked is the implementation of additional ways of promoting education in the City. There is a lot of verbiage in the budget that talks about expenditures, additions and costs. Mr. Polkowski said that he would like to see the words like cost savings, reductions. He added that when they go through City budget, the costs were drastically reduced wherever possible, union contracts were re-negotiated and bonding was reduced as well. He suggested some possible savings on utility costs (solar panels, other green technology that can be implemented).

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that normally she does not respond in public participation, but since there is few people signed up, she wanted to respond to Mr. Polkowski's comments. She said that in terms of solar panels, the Board took the lead years ago on putting solar panels on some of the schools and through the Mayor's initiative there are multiple schools in the District now will solar panels. There is a bus that runs on solar energy.

Alderman Smedley is the District's Energy Specialist and there are conservation efforts throughout the District. And in terms of union contracts, the Board of Education was in the forefront with the union negotiations, even before the City negotiated with the City unions.

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra acknowledged that Alderman Sanders and Wilfredo Pabon joined the Board of Education meeting.

- Elsa Saavedra, Linda Skoglund

Mrs. Saavedra, Principal of Smalley Academy, and Linda Skoglund, Data Manager at Smalley Academy, stated that compared to two years ago there has been much progress at all levels at Smalley Academy. Mrs. Saavedra said that she was advocating on continuing on having a grade level Data Facilitator for Smalley. Presently the position is paid for by grant. The grant ends this year. This position has been essential in working with more than 60% brand new teachers at Smalley Academy, it had provided an additional person to respond to real time issues in a timely fashion. It has assisted all children with goal setting in Reading and Math. Mrs. Saavedra shared with the Board some data on the growth that Smalley Academy had. Ms. Skoglund went over the data team calendar and NWEA Reading Results highlighting the progress that the school made.

- Jane Perez

Ms. Perez, Principal of Chamberlain Elementary School, thanked everyone who put the budget together. She believed it was very timely to have included all of the things that were included in

this budget. For many years there were many cuts in staffing and always trying to do more with less each year. Ms. Perez said that she was very pleased to see new proposed positions in the budget that really presents what the District needs to make it a competitive District. She added that it was a lot to ask for and the Board will probably be cutting this budget, but she believed it was important to make the statement that those were the things that the District needed to move ahead.

- Jim Sanders Jr.

Mr. Sanders, City Alderman, said that even though he is new to his position, he is not new to the City and he is well aware of financial problems in the City. He said that everybody needs to advocate to get more State funds. He mentioned that there will be a meeting of the Board of Education and the City Council and he believed that the meeting will be very beneficial for everyone and everybody can be on the same page. Mr. Sanders added that he was looking forward to working with the Board, with unions. Mr. Sanders thanked everyone for their hard work.

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra asked one of the parents in the audience to express their thoughts/concerns. The parents of a student attending Gaffney school were new to the District and attended the Board meeting as they wanted to learn more about the District and the budget process. The only concern they had was the class size at Gaffney school. They believed that the smaller class size will help their child progress better, especially in reading. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that the Board is always discussing class sizes and how they can be reduced.

Mr. Kane gave a brief presentation on the proposed 2016-2017 operating budget. He said that it was a two step process.:

- Analysis of School/Program resources and need (workshops held at Slade MIS (school program administrator) and central administration (Kevin Kane, Nancy Sarra, Jeff Prokop)
- Non Personnel Budget Requests (school/program administrators submit to - Kevin Kane and Ann Alfano)

Mr. Kane gave an overview of the timeline:

January 2016 (BOE):

- January 7th - Board receives proposed budget book
- January 11th - Proposed budget presented
- January 13th - Public hearing
- January 25th - BOE budget vote
- January 29th - Budget sent to city

March 2016 - Date to be determined

- BOE presents budget to City Board of Finance

March 15th to June 15th

- Administration & BOE Budget Workshops

June 20th, 21st and 22nd

- BOE adopts 2016-2017 Budget

Mr. Kane explained per pupil expenditure comparison between New Britain and CREC Magnet schools. CREC Magnets funding per pupil cost is \$17,123-based on NB average. Funding from State of CT per pupil is \$10,443. Funding from New Britain per pupil depending on Magnet School: low of \$3,330, high of \$5,400 and average of \$4,680. New Britain schools per pupils cost (FY 2015) was \$13,036.

Differential CREC versus New Britain is \$4,087 or 31% higher. Mr. Kane stated that per historic data on New Britain’s per pupil expenditure, New Britain was:

- 67th - 1999/2000
- 60th - 2002/2003
- 121st - 2006/2007
- 128th -2010/2011
- 158th -2014/2015

Mr. Kane gave a recap per pupil expenditures fiscal year 2014-2015:

- Hartford - rank 21- \$19,336
- Windham - rank 25 - \$18,865
- CREC (NB students) - rank 52 - \$17,123
- New Haven - rank 54 - \$17,000
- State Average - rank 88 - \$15,689
- New London - rank 102 - \$15,252
- Waterbury - rank 107 - \$15,013
- Bridgeport - rank 144 - \$13,705
- New Britain - rank 158 - \$13,036

Mr. Kane said that the proposed 2016-2017 budget proposes an increase of approximate \$1,241 per pupil expenditure over the 2015-2016 budget. He added that it is a fair and reasonable budget request, far less what is needed to have New Britain on a level “playing filed” with DRG I and State. General fund proposed budget increase of \$13.8 million (to reach DRG I average - needed \$39 million, to reach state average - needed \$ 30 million). Mr. Kane said that the proposed additions over status quo budget are totaling \$7,776,885, 80 new positions at a cost of \$5,838,118, non-personnel additions at a cost if \$1,938,767.

Mr. Kane gave an overview of new positions:

30.1 certified positions (excludes Special Education):

- 5 Administrators (2 Assistant Principals - Holmes and Jefferson; 3 District Coordinators-2 Curriculum, 1 Research & Development)
- 10 classroom teachers (6 elementary, 1 DiLoreto, 1 Slade, 2 NBHS (Culinary & Art)
- 2.1 Fine Art Teachers (0.6 Art (Career Satellite Academy), 1.6 Music (0.6-NBHS and 1-District wide)
- 2 Media Teachers - to have all schools with 1. FTE
- 1 Guidance teacher - to have Slade and Pulaski with 2 each

- 12 Reading teacher - add 1 for all Elementary and Middle schools
 - 1 Gifted teacher - District wide
 - 3 Curriculum teacher (these positions are replaced by the 3 new District Coordinator positions)
 - 1 Transportation Manager
 - 1.5 Secretary (1 Transition Center, 0.5 Facilities)
 - 5.5 Office Clerks (3.5 -0.5 addition to 7 of the Elementary Schools, 1-Central Registration, 1-Business Operations and Human Resources)
 - 1.47 Support Staff (.47 Communication Specialist for the Board-increases current position to 1.0 FTE, 1 Computer Specialist MIS Department)
17.97 Non-Certified Positions (Excludes Special Education)
 - 2 Behavior Support (-2: eliminate at Holmes and Jefferson due to new Assistant Principal positions; 2: Slade, 1 ISS-same as Pulaski and 1 STEPS; 2: Transition Center-staffs program with one per classroom)
 - 1 custodian - 0.5 Gaffney and 0.5 CSA
 - 1 Security staff and NBHS
 - 2.5 nurses - 1 Smalley, 0.5 Preschool Center at Roosevelt and 1 Pupil Services
15 Certified Positions (Special Education Only)
 - 13 Special Education Teachers (1Chamberlain, 2 Gaffney-KEY, 1 Holmes-SUNRISE, 1 Smalley, 1 Preschool at Roosevelt, 1 Slade, 1 Pulaski, 3 NBHS, 1 NBHS-KEY, 1 Pupil Services)
 - 2 Speech Pathologists (NBHS)
17 Non - Certified Positions (Special Education Only)
 - 17 Paras (9 Gaffney- KEY, 4 preschool at Roosevelt, 1 Slade - KEY and 1 NBHS- KEY)
 Mr. Kane gave an overview of non-personnel additions:
 - Library Books: \$343,688-NBHS, \$330,000-District wide
 - Textbooks: \$380,845-NBHS, \$156,200-Math, \$100,988-Social Studies, \$62,000-Science, \$31,316-English, \$30,341-Other, \$200,000-District wide-replace books
 - Instructional Equipment New - \$400,000-District wide Chrome books - 2 students per chrome book
 - All other - \$284,234 - \$139,437-Facilities, \$121,667-NBHS, \$23,130-Smalley
 Mr. Kane said that major drivers in the budget increase are proposed additions over status quo budget: \$7,776,785 (6.31%).
 - Salaries and Fringes & Insurances (contractual)-\$3,867,992 (3.14%)- Tuition - \$1,569,430 (1.27%) - \$1,319,430 (Pupil Services), \$250,000 (Magnet Schools)
 - Transportation (contractual) - \$634,207 (0.52%)
 - All other - \$1,052

Mr. Gay wanted to know if this budget had anything that would solve the problem of Special Ed preschoolers getting less hours in preschool than the other preschoolers in town. Mr. Kane said that not yet. Mr. Gay added that the budget adds two teachers at the High School (Art and Culinary), but still does not solve the problem of students being able to get the electives they want. Mr. Kane said that Mr. Gay was correct.

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra stated that everything in this budget is about direct services and impacts somebody's quality of life and their future potential.

Mr. Gay added that the proposed budget as big as it appears still does not solve many of the problems that exist in the District. The Board is not even close to asking what they really need to do justice for the students in the District.

Mrs. Rodriguez reminded everyone of NEASC accreditation and the list of recommendations that came from the high school. Accreditation is a very important process and the School will be required to meet several of those recommendations and those recommendations usually have a price tag.

Mrs. Zottola said that frequently the Board is forced to make the cuts on non-personnel side, the facilities. If there is a leak in a ceiling and it gets fixed right away, it will cost less than just patching it up and then just going with it till it becomes a bigger issue. Mrs. Zottola believed that the Board needed to look at that and Mr. Moore need to let the Board know of issues like that.

Mrs. Greco said that Mr. Kane did an outstanding job with the budget. She wanted to know if people that fund the District do in fact see and understand the budget and the needs of the District.

Mr. Kane explained that they do hear. But they say that the Districts spend too much on education. Education is the largest organization in each community. The District does not get enough funding.

Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that CCJEF started strong. She was able to see Sharon Locke testify and she did an outstanding job. She may have left New Britain and went on to become a Superintendent of Naugatuck, but she spent the entire day testifying in court for New Britain. And when she spoke of New Britain, she spoke in present. The State tried to be a little tricky, but Sharon Locke was very confident and calm in her responses. She represented New Britain extremely well and Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra was very proud. The State's person suggested that the only reason Mrs. Locke agreed to testify was to bring extra money home to New Britain and she had no other reason for being there other than wanting more money. And Mrs. Locke gave such a wonderful response on the morality of equity in the State of Connecticut and what the children need, that she just shut him right down. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra said that Mrs. Locke did

Members	A	B	C	G	G	G	M	R	S	Z	Agenda Item	Action Authorized
Motion Second Ayes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<p>not forget New Britain. Mr. Gay added that the State’s argument is that the money does not matter. Mr. Gay mentioned the moment when Mrs. Locke described the effort of reorganizing the schools around the neighborhood school model and doing zero based budgeting. Really looking at the needs of students at each school and what kind of support services were needed there and how much would that cost. Mrs. Locke said that she rally thought that by reorganizing things the District could really do it. And then when it came to the point that the District needed \$10-\$15 million more, she was stunned realizing that the District was not really asking for what was truly needed. New Britain has been shorted on ECS funding and a lot of things could have been resolved with that additional money. Mr. Salina said that he did testify at trial as well. He said that Mrs. Locke was first one to testify and he was the second one, then Elaine Cabral, Principal of Lincoln school, followed him. Mr. Salina said that New Britain is leading the trial that is based on several communities. He added that New Britain has a very strong case. Mrs. Beloin-Saavedra thanked everyone who attended the meeting to be part of the discussion and to make comments. She thanked Mr. Kane for a very well put together document and a thorough presentation.</p> <p>VI. Adjournment Moved to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.</p>	MOTION CARRIED

